urging the developed countries and multilateral institutions to redeem this pledge. UNESCO, as the coordinator of the EFA movement, has been attempting to highlight the issue of adequate resources in various fora, including the High Level Group for EFA.

Primary Schools in Rajasthan

1139. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Rajasthan which are without Primary and Upper Primary School facilities, as on date; and

(b) the nature of assistance provided by the Central Government to the State Government, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Government of Rajasthan, out of a total of 36903 villages/habitations in Rajasthan, 3573 habitations/villages are without primary/upper primary school facilities. The Central Government is providing financial assistance for opening new primary/upper primary schools through the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Lok Jumbish Project, Shiksha Karmi Project and Janshala Programme. Based on the approval of District Elementary Education Plans, funds are being also provided under the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which also includes the Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education to fill in the existing gaps in access facilities.

Standard of University Education

1140. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the standard of university education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps taken in the field of higher education, according to the Birla-Ambani report;

(d) whether Government would change the existing norms in the appointment of university teachers, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.